

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A method for operating a novelty device having a lenticular image selectively caused to move by a drive mechanism and associated sound generating means both of which are controlled by electronics, the movement of said lenticular image allowing the viewing of a plurality of discreet images consecutively which together make up an animation sequence and the method allowing the novelty device to give the appearance that the sound emitted thereby is synchronised to the animation, said method including the steps of delivering a sound signal representative of a sound sample of a predetermined duration to the sound generating means which reproduce said sound sample, deriving a drive signal from said sound signal either in real time or prior to delivery of said sound signal to said sound generating means and delivering said drive signal to said drive mechanism to cause movement of said lenticular image, wherein the animation sequence viewable during the motion of the lenticular image is repeated a number of times and for varying periods of time determined by the drive signal during the time that the single sound sample is reproduced by the sound generating means to give the appearance that the animation sequence is of the same duration as the sound sample and that said animation sequence is synchronised with the sound sample.

2. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the sound signal is pre-programmed in the electronics.

3. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 2 wherein the lenticular image consists of a plurality of individual images spliced together, each of said images being of the face of a person or character having a mouth of varying stages of openness, and the sound sample consists substantially of speech.

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4. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 3 wherein the initial image viewable in the animation sequence is that of the face of a character or person having their mouth closed, the animation sequence showing that character or person subsequently opening and then closing their mouth.

5. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 4 wherein the drive signal is derived prior to the delivery of the sound signal to the sound generating means.

6. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 5 wherein the drive signal is derived such that the animation sequence is repeated for each syllable of speech reproduced by the sound generating means.

7. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 6 wherein the duration of each repetition of the animation sequence which is determined by the drive signal varies between each repetition depending on the length of each syllable of speech contained in the sound sample.

8. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7 wherein the lenticular image is caused to move gradually at the beginning and end of the animation sequence by means of a drive signal which is ramped at both the beginning and end of each peak.

9. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1 wherein the lenticular image is caused to move gradually at the beginning and end of the animation sequence by means of suitably damping the drive mechanism so that the delivery of a stepwise-type drive signal to the drive mechanism results in the gradual motion of the lenticular image.

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10. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 8 wherein the peaks in the drive signal are maintained for a suitable time depending on the duration of a particular syllable in the speech which constitutes the sound sample.

11. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 4 wherein the drive signal is determined in real time electronically using a processor to which the sound signal is delivered in addition to its delivery to said sound generating means, said processor analysing said sound signal for characteristic peaks indicative of syllabic enunciation in speech.

12. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 11 which the processor creates a drive signal based on an algorithm which detects when the peaks in one or more of the characteristics of the input sound signal exceed a predetermined level.

13. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 13 wherein filter means are employed to remove high frequency artefacts from the sound signal prior to algorithmic processing of the sound signal.

14. (Previously presented): An image display device comprising a lenticular image which allows the display of a plurality of individual images in succession by means of the displacement of one or more of the elements of the lenticular image to provide an animation sequence, said device further comprising sound generation means capable of converting a sound signal into sounds of a predetermined duration being sounds of the type an observer would expect to hear on seeing the animation sequence, said lenticular image being displaced by a drive mechanism actuated in response to a drive signal to allow an observer to see the animation sequence, said drive signal being derived manually or electronically from said sound signal in real

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time or prior to the delivery of said sound signal to the sound generation means, said driver signal being delivered to said driver means substantially simultaneously with the delivery of the sound signal to the sound generation means, wherein in that the animation sequence viewable during the motion of the lenticular image is repeated a number of times and for varying periods of time determined by the drive signal during the time that the single sound sample is reproduced by the sound generating means to give the appearance that the animation sequence is of the same duration as the sound sample and that said animation sequence is synchronised with the sound sample.

15. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 14 wherein the drive signal and sound signal are combined into a single signal delivered to the sound generation means which causes the reproduction of the sound sample by means of speaker coil movement, said drive mechanism consisting of a mechanical link between the moving element of said sound generation mechanism and the lenticular image or an element thereof.

16. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 14 wherein a combined sound and drive signal is stored in the memory of a sound chip and passed through a circuit which splits the drive signal from the sound signal for subsequent delivery of each respectively to drive mechanism and sound generation mechanism.

17. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 15 wherein the drive mechanism is any mechanism which produces a positive mechanical displacement dependent on the magnitude and/or direction or sign of the current through or potential difference across the mechanism.

18. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 15 wherein the drive mechanism includes a stepper motor.

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19. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 15 wherein the drive mechanism includes a transducer.

20. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 15 wherein the drive mechanism includes a mechanically driven cam arrangement wherein the lenticular image or an element thereof rests on the cam which is driven rotationally to move the lenticular image or an element thereof back and forth.

21. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 16 wherein the drive mechanism is any mechanism which produces a positive mechanical displacement dependent on the magnitude and/or direction or sign of the current through or potential difference across the mechanism.

22. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 16 wherein the drive mechanism includes a stepper motor.

23. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 16 wherein the drive mechanism includes a transducer.

24. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 16 wherein the drive mechanism includes a mechanically driven cam arrangement wherein the lenticular image or an element thereof rests on the cam which is driven rotationally to move the lenticular image or an element thereof back and forth.

25. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 14 wherein the device includes processor means which controls the operation of both a sound chip and the drive mechanism on receipt of an initiation signal ensuring that the sound signal and the drive signal are delivered to the sound generation means and the drive mechanism respectively simultaneously.

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26. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 25 wherein the processor communicates with one or more sound chips having memory associated therewith in which are stored a plurality of different sound signals representative of different sound samples, said processor further communicating with both the said sound chip and one or more sensors which deliver a sensor signals to said processor which subsequently causes the delivery of one or other of the stored sound signals to the sound generation means depending on the sensor signal received.

27. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 26 wherein for each stored sound signal there is an associated derived drive signal stored in memory associated with the processor.

28. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 26 wherein the processor can derive drive signals corresponding to each of the store sound signals in real time.

29. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 26 wherein the lenticular image in the device is changeable and the one or more sensors deliver a sensor signal to the processor indicative of the particular lenticular image at any time on display within the device.

30. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 29 wherein one or other or both of the processor and the one or more sound chips can be re-programmed.

31. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 29 wherein a plurality of images are contained within the device and the device further includes means for changing which of the lenticular images is on display at any one time.

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32. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 31 wherein the device includes means for scrolling and indexing a web of material behind a lenticular screen, said web having been printed with a plurality of lenticular images which can be singularly viewed behind the lenticular screen on the selection of the user of the device, the drive mechanism causing movement of the screen to animate the image therebehind.

33. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 32 wherein a remote control feature is included in the device to allow a user to remotely cause a change in displayed lenticular image.

34. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 29 wherein the user may place different image cards in a suitably shaped receiver, the sensor means detecting which of a plurality of images has been inserted and causing playback in the relevant sound sample associated with that image.

35. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 29 wherein indicator means is provided proximate each individual image at any time displayed by the device, said indicator means being detectable by the sensor which delivers the corresponding sensor signal to the processor.

36. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 25 wherein that the processor communicates with memory incorporated in a mobile telecommunications device into which on or more sound samples can be downloaded.

37. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 36 wherein said processor prevents the delivery of a particular sound signal representative of a particular sound sample unless a successful comparison is achieved between a sensor signal and a signal identifying a particular sound signal.

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38. (Previously presented): A device according to claim 37 wherein said processor receives the identifying signal from said mobile telecommunications device containing said particular sound sample prior to playback thereof.

39. (New): A method for operating a novelty device having a lenticular image selectively caused to move by a drive mechanism and associated sound generating means both of which are controlled by electronics, the movement of said lenticular image allowing the viewing of a plurality of discreet images consecutively which together make up an animation sequence and the method allowing the novelty device to give the appearance that the sound emitted thereby is synchronised to the animation, said method including the steps of delivering a sound signal representative of a sound sample of a predetermined duration to the sound generating means which reproduce said sound sample, deriving a drive signal from said sound signal either in real time or prior to delivery of said sound signal to said sound generating means and delivering said drive signal to said drive mechanism to cause movement of said lenticular image, wherein the animation sequence viewable during the motion of the lenticular image is repeated a number of times and for varying periods of time determined by the drive signal during the time that the single sound sample is reproduced by the sound generating means such that the animation is of the same duration as the sound sample and that said animation sequence is synchronised with the sound sample and wherein the duration of each repetition of the animation sequence is dependent upon the frequency of movement determined by the drive signals which are generated during each particular repetition and the length of each said repetition varies between successive repetitions during the playback of the sound sample.

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